

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of re-configuring a network element of a transmission network to restore traffic after a failure, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

generating a configuration request to implement a new cross-connection through said network element,

performing said configuration request in a first fetch-ahead phase comprising only configuration steps essential for fast implementation of said new cross-connection and skipping security related configuration steps thereby providing reduced security against process restarts; and

performing said configuration request in a second consolidation phase comprising said previously skipped security related configuration steps.

2. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said consolidation phase comprises a consistency check of said configuration request and storing of ~~the~~ configuration changes in a persistent local database.

3. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~execution if~~ performance of said configuration request in the fetch-ahead phase leads to an inconsistency

between an actual hardware configuration and a locally stored configuration data of said network element, said inconsistency is resolved and ~~wherein during said consolidation phase, said inconsistency is resolved.~~

4. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein a timer is started during said fetch-ahead phase and if said timer lapses before said consolidation phase ~~has been completed~~ completes, configuration steps performed during said fetch-ahead phase are undone by re-loading a stored configuration data.

5. (currently amended): A network element of a transport network, comprising:

a ~~number~~ plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports,

a ~~crossconnection~~ cross-connection matrix for randomly establishing connections from one of the plurality of input ports to one of the plurality of output ports, any to an port and

at least one controller for configuring said network element and establishing crossconnections through said cross-connection matrix; said at least one controller ~~being~~ adapted to perform a received configuration request in a fetch-ahead phase first and to perform said received configuration request in a consolidation phase thereafter;

wherein said fetch-ahead phase comprises only configuration steps essential for fast implementation of said cross-connection and ~~skipping~~ skips security related configuration steps thereby providing reduced security against process restarts; and

wherein said consolidation request comprises said previously skipped security related configuration steps.

6. (currently amended): [[A]] The network element according to claim 5, wherein said controller comprises:

a layered control software with at least two software layers,

a first software layer comprising an abstraction of physical resources and logical resources of said network element for the purpose of network management, and

a second software layer comprises a representation of ~~the~~ actual hardware modules of the network element and it's the network element configuration[[,]];

wherein said first software layer and said second software layer comprise each of said software layers comprising a an individual persistent storage storing an image of configuration data of the a corresponding software layer of said software layers; said controller being adapted to successively process said configuration request in said first software layer and said second software layer each of said layers and forward-it said configuration request to-the a next lower layer of said software layers.

wherein storing of configuration data to the persistent storage is performed in each of said layers during said consolidation phase, only.

7. (currently amended): [[A]] The network element according to claim 5, wherein said consolidation phase comprises a consistency check of said configuration request and storing of the configuration changes in a persistent local database.

8. (currently amended): [[A]] The network element according to claim 5, wherein execution of said configuration request in the fetch-ahead phase leads to an inconsistency between an actual hardware configuration and a locally stored configuration data of said network element and wherein during said consolidation phase, said inconsistency is resolved.

9. (currently amended): [[A]] The network element according to claim 5, further comprising a timer which is started during said fetch-ahead phase and if said timer lapses before said consolidation phase completes ~~has been completed~~, configuration steps performed during said fetch-ahead phase are undone by re-loading stored configuration data.

10. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein a route of said new cross-connection through said network element established during said first phase, is not changed during said second phase.